**Civil Rights Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**July 10, 2023 at 5 pm (via Zoom)**

**Progressive Action for the Common Good**

*Present:* Alta Price, Allison Ambrose, Margie Mejia-Caraballo, Loxi Hopkins, Rich Hendricks, Pat Welch

May minutes were presented and approved

Action Item Updates:

***ACTION ITEMS from 5/8 Civil Rights Forum Meeting:***

**Allison:**

* Reach out to Isaac at QCAir regarding immigration/refugee coalition -**DONE;** informed Isaac from QCAir that Allison will be a member of the coalition, have not heard back.
* Let Maggie at the office know that we are volunteering for the Putnam event and will get Emily into the loop—**DONE;** Meeting scheduled for 7/11, Emily invited (Neither Allison or Emily were able to attend the meeting)
* Investigate strategies for a statewide effort to lobby Grassley for support of the Afghan Adjustment Act (Erica Johnson was mentioned as a good place to start): **DONE:** Allison contacted Erica, has not heard back.

**Anyone:**

* Call people interested in our forum and personally invite them to join.—**not done.**

***Coalition Partners Update:***

* **MLK Interpretive Center:** No one present to report; it looks like construction of the park is making progress.
* **NAACP:** No one present to report
* **LULAC:** Loxi reported on the new officer elections and the student scholarship initiative
* **QCAIR:** QCAIR is hosting an event revolving around the World Cup on 8/12. This would be a good PAU item. It is in the current PAU.

Note: (we work in coalition with the above groups and that we like to hear reports during out meetings so that we can be informed about what these groups are doing to potentially identify ways that we can support their efforts)

**Gender Equity Forum Update:** with the likelihood of an abortion ban in Iowa becoming a reality, the forum will need to discuss strategies.

**BLM Responses and Actions:**

The “I Am the Future” video, which has been reworked, will be shown at the Putnam and we hope to tie this into some kind of fundraising initiative for PACG. There is a committee being formed to plan this, which has already met. Someone from Civil Rights should be on this committee. **There is a meeting schedule for 8/15 at the Putnam. Allison will go.**

The equity now rally continues to be held every Saturday at from noon to 12:30 pm at John Deere Rd and 16th St. in Moline. ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Immigration**

Allison has recently heard back from Erica Johnson regarding the Afghan Adjustment Act. She will share at the next meeting so that we can discuss strategies for an lobbying effort. (From May minutes: We discussed organizing some kind of statewide initiative to lobby Grassley for his support Another thought was to visit Ernst’s office and ask her to approach Grassley.)

Allison mentioned to also keep in mind: other ideas regarding immigration advocacy that came out of the Immigration Summit could be handled by the QCAir coalition being formed. We want to keep our eyes open for other legislation (ie: comprehensive immigration reform; year-end omnibus bill) for lobbying potential.

**Quad City Sanctuary Coalition**—This group has not been meeting

**Juvenile Justice Coalition:** It appears that this group no longer exists. We discussed whether we, as a civil rights forum should be doing anything in this area. One thing mentioned was finding out about the Youth Assessment going on in Davenport from the sheriff. A past idea of potentially arranging for Scott County judges to meet with Polk County judges as there is clearly a racial discrepancy with prosecutions along racial lines in terms of black youth being tried in adult court was shared. Scott County is the worst county. Perhaps there is something to learn from other counties. Both of these ideas are worth considering.

**New Business:**

Rich brought up his concerns for LGBTQ+ persons (esp. those in Iowa) and the mental health issues they may be experiencing. We discussed ideas on how we can help them feel safe and show them support, counter balancing all the negativity in the media. An idea of holding a “Love In” appeared to gain some traction. This should be a simple event, perhaps on a Sunday afternoon, providing an opportunity for the community to show support and for Allys to come together. We love to get publicity too! We thought it best to work with partner organizations (The Project, Clock, QC Pride, QC Mom Hugs, OHFQC, Riverside Interfaith ?) on this. **Allison will reach out to these organizations to assess interest.**

Loxi brought up that she would like to see some kind of city regulation regarding communication when a building fails inspection so that residents can be in the know. A good place to start on this would be to talk to some Davenport Aldermen (Tim Kelly, Rick Dunn and Ben Jobgen were mentioned). **Allison will pursue this after her vacation.**

**Monday, August 14th at 5:00 via ZOOM is the next meeting**

*Notes taken by Allison Ambrose*

***ACTION ITEMS from 7/10 Civil Rights Forum Meeting:***

**Allison:**

* Work with Loxi to meet with Davenport Aldermen
* Reach out to groups who could be potential partners for our “Love In”

**Anyone:**

* Call people interested in our forum and personally invite them to join.